

WORD: "Rightly Handling the Truth of God" (2 Timothy 1:1-7)  
For the week of January 8, 2017

**Remembering the Spiritual Disciplines**

Prayer is a spiritual discipline. Prayer is communication with God. Have you ever felt that prayer was more *obligation* than *opportunity*? Write down your thoughts on this and discuss in your group.

**Overview:** This letter (2 Timothy) was authored by the apostle Paul to Timothy. It was written around 64-67 A.D., while Paul is in prison, awaiting death. The theme of the letter calls for perseverance in the gospel despite suffering. This letter reads like two friends talking. They are both alert for trouble, but mainly reflecting on their own lives and how they are doing in this battle. Paul is the mentor; Timothy the one being mentored. Paul writes in a very personal way. In 1 Timothy he marveled at the grace of God in saving him and calling him to ministry. In 2 Timothy we see Paul suffering, but trusting in God for the future. Can you imagine young Timothy's emotions as he reads this letter privately for the first time? And we can only imagine his feeling when reading this letter again after Paul's death.

**Big Picture of the Passage**

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 as a group. As a church at RCC our charge is to "make disciples who make disciples." In this passage identify examples of how Timothy was disciplined. Who disciplined him? How did they do it?

Peace :

4. Would you expect your definition of these terms to be the same definition given by an unbeliever? Why or why not?

**Verses 1-2**

2. In Paul's greeting he adds the words "according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus." Why did he add those words and what do they mean? How does Christ Jesus promise life?

3. As believers we often speak in "Christianspeak" which can sound completely foreign to a nonbeliever. With that in mind, how would you explain the following words to them?

Grace:

Mercy:

**Verse 3**

5. One aspect of discipleship is prayer for the one(s) whom you are discipling. Why is it significant that Paul remembers Timothy in his prayers day and night? As you read this, who is on your "day and night" prayer list? List them. Now who do you need to add to the list? List them.

### **Verses 4-5**

6. First, for background on Timothy's home life read Acts 16:1-3. How did Timothy's mother and grandmother impact him spiritually? Describe how discipleship in a family setting is so critical. Did your parents (or grandparents or other family) have an impact on you spiritually? How so?

### **Verse 6**

Paul encourages Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" that was given to him.

7. First, what does it mean to "fan into flame"? What concrete examples can you give of this occurring?
8. Second, can a spiritual gift die down like a fire and be rekindled by an act of the will?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 14:22-40 where Paul teaches about spiritual gifts and a person's responsibility for their gift(s). Write down and share key insights from this passage.

10. Christians are often in a dilemma over whether to "let go and let God," meaning to yield to God and passively wait for Him to transform them spiritually vs. to be actively responsible in shaping their Christian character. What are your thoughts? Discuss.

### **Verse 7**

Paul ends this passage by stating that the antidote for fear is power, love, and self-control.

11. What is the "spirit of fear" that Paul speaks of? Are believers fearful? If so, of what?
12. How do love, power, and self-control counteract fear?

### **Pray**

Ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in you the gifts that he has given you. Ask Him to renew you as you consider Christ Jesus and the power that raised Him from the dead. Praise God for the power of the gospel. Pray specifically for family members that have yet to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.